
United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 13, 2004

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in relation to an alarming story that recently appeared in the New York Times. That newspaper reported that your Administration, over the objections of officials at the Defense Department, the Justice Department, and the Central Intelligence Agency, released five terrorism suspects to Saudi Arabia as part of a secret, three-way prisoner swap around the time of the invasion of Iraq to satisfy important allies. The story goes on to assert the idea to link the U.S. release of Saudi terrorism suspects with the release of British citizens held in Saudi Arabia was initially proposed in August 2002 by Robert Jordan, our ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

We are writing to seek the following information and to request that your National Security Adviser come to the Senate as soon as possible to brief all Senators on this incident,

- Is the story accurate?

If so:

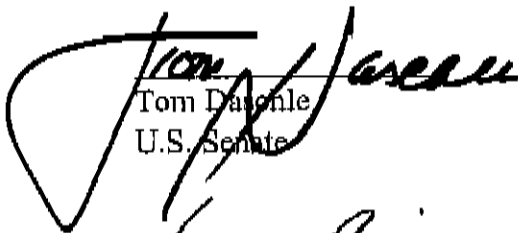
- Why were these five terrorism suspects released?
- Who authorized their release?
- How were these five Saudi terrorism suspects identified for release? Why were these five terrorism suspects being held before their release?
- Were there objections to the release of the terrorism suspects from Defense Department, the Justice Department and Central Intelligence Agency officials, and if so, what were their bases?
- Did Robert Jordan, our Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, propose to senior State Department officials that the release of Saudi terrorism suspects be linked to the Saudi release of British subjects?
- Did you or officials in your Administration ever discuss the subject of the British national detained in Saudi Arabia with Prime Minister Blair or other British officials?

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- Prior to the release of these five terrorism suspects, had other terror suspects been released from Guantanamo? If so, under what circumstances were they released and where are they now?
- Under what conditions did you authorize the release of these five terrorism suspects? Have the Saudis honored those conditions since the suspects were released?
- Does your Administration know the current whereabouts of each of these five terrorism suspects?

We thank you in advance for responding to these critical questions.

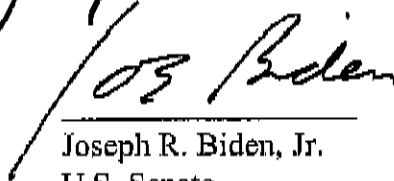
Sincerely,



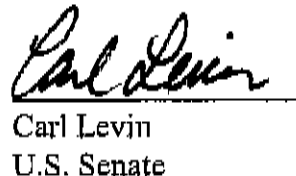
Tom Daschle
U.S. Senate



Harry Reid
U.S. Senate



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
U.S. Senate



Carl Levin
U.S. Senate



John D. Rockefeller IV
U.S. Senate